

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELIZE 00677 112241Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 EUR-12 CG-00 DOTE-00  
/056 W

-----093869 121725Z /53

R 102315Z JUL 78  
FM AMCONSUL BELIZE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6514  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
CCGDSEVEN MIAMI FL

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELIZE 677

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MOPS, GT, BH, UK  
SUBJECT: GUATEMALA NAVY

REF: BELIZE 665(NOTAL) TELECON NALLE/CCGDSEVEN, JULY 10

1. SITUATION IN RE GROUNDED GUATEMALA PATROL BOAT IS GENERALLY MURKY. SOME ASPECTS OF IT ARE REASONABLY CLEAR, HOWEVER, AND IT SEEMS MUCH CREDIT MUST GO TO BRITISH HERE-BOTH IN BELIZE HOUSE AND AIRPORT CAMP-FOR LEVEL HEADED HANDLING OF PROBLEM. ATTITUDE OF BRITISH HAS BEEN TO COOPERATE WITH LOCAL PRESS TO GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE AND THEREBY AVOID ANY SENSATIONALISM. TO FURTHER THAT END, WHEN REPORTERS BREATHING FIRE AND EXPECTING STONE WALLING, ARRIVED AT AIRPORT CAMP THEY WERE TOLD THEY WERE QUITE FREE TO FLY OVER SCENE, TAKE PHOTOS AND DO AS THEY WISHED. AS A RESULT PRESS COVERAGE HAS BEEN RELATIVELY MILD. AT SAME TIME, BRITISH GOVERNOR ORDERED HARRIER ACFT TO GIVE CAYE WHERE BOAT WAS AGROUND VERY WIDE BERTH; THIS DISAPPOINTED PILOTS WHO WERE HOPING FOR A CHANCE TO DEMONSTRATE ACFT'S CAPABILITIES. IT HAS, HOWEVER, AVOIDED ANY SHOW OF STRENGTH. GUATEMALAN COUNSEL GENERAL, WE UNDERSTAND, WAS FLOWN OUT TO WRECK IN UK HELICOPTER FOR FIRST HAND LOOK-SEE.

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2. ACTUAL SITUATION AT SCENE, REEF SE OF SANBORE CAYE APPROX. 87 DEG. 28 MIN. WEST, 17 DEG. 26 MIN. NORTH, IS LESS CLEAR. HARBOR MASTER ADVISES US THAT ORIGINAL PATROL BOAT HAS BEEN PULLED FREE BY GUATEMALAN TUG WHICH MAY HAVE ITSELF GONE AROUND IN PROCESS. THERE IS ALSO REPORT THAT ANOTHER GUATEMALAN PATROL BOAT MAY HAVE TOUCHED ON THE CORAL HEADS AS WELL.

HARBOR MASTER, WHO NORMALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL SALVAGE WORK  
SAYS HE HAS BEEN KEPT IN DARK IN MUCH OF THE ACTIVITIES,  
NOTES EXTREME DANGER OF SAILING CLOSE TO THIS OR ANY OTHER  
CAYE IN THIS AREA. HE ALSO TELLS US HIS LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS  
IN AREA HAD BEEN OBSERVING GUATEMALAN BOAT FOR SOME TIME  
AND DO NOT BELIEVE SHE WAS RETURNING FROM TEXAS OR ANY OTHER  
US PORT BUT WAS RATHER "SNOOPING". WE HAVE NO IDEA AS TO  
ACCURACY THIS STATEMENT AND WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING IF VESSEL  
WAS IN FACT EN ROUTE HOUSTON GUATEMALA.

3. AS NOTED, PRESS COVERAGE HAS BEEN RELATIVELY RESTRAINED.  
OPPOSITION PAPER DOES ACCUSE PUP GOVERNMENT OF NOT TAKING  
STRONG ENOUGH STEPS AND COMPARES MILD BELIZEAN ACTIONS TO  
GOG ACTION IN CASE OF VESSEL PARTRIDGE, A BELIZEAN TRADER  
WHICH ENTERED GUATEMALAN WATERS ACCIDENTALLY, WAS DETAINED, CAPTAIN  
HELD FOR 200 DAYS WITH OUT TRIAL AND VESSEL STILL HELD AT  
LIVINGSTON.

4. EXCITEMENT SEEMS BE DYING DOWN AND WE UNAWARE WHAT  
ACTIONS IF ANY PLANNED BY UK.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TERRITORIAL WATERS, NAVAL SHIPS, SHIP MOVEMENTS, SHIP ACCIDENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BELIZE00677  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780285-1044  
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**Reference:** 78 BELIZE 665  
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**Review Event:**  
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**SAS ID:** 2074543  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GUATEMALA NAVY  
**TAGS:** MOPS, GT, BH, UK  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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